

# INTRODUCTION

## SECTION V – CONSERVATION EFFECTS

The primary purpose of this section is to identify the effects of conservation practices in order to assist land users in making informed decisions. With a display of conservation effects, planners are able to formulate suitable alternatives to protect the resource base and to address both the land user's and society's objectives.

An additional purpose of this section is to serve as a source of appropriate procedures and methods for collecting, analyzing and displaying conservation effects data as an environmental assessment tool.

Collecting conservation effects information is a long-term effort to be undertaken by all offices as part of the follow-up effort in the planning process.

### Understanding the Conservation Practice Physical Effects (CPPE) Process

#### Introducing CPPE

Planning the soil, water, air, plant and animal (SWAPA) resources and their interrelationships has increased the complexity of assisting decisionmakers. NRCS provides alternatives and assistance that address resource concerns without considering the effects on all resources.

As a technical agency, NRCS must constantly strive to improve methods to evaluate the potential effects of conservation practices on the resources when providing technical assistance. It is necessary to determine the physical effects relevant to each resource during the planning process. Because a conservation practice has a positive effect on one resource concern does not necessarily mean it will also have a positive effect on other resources.

#### Effects Concept

The planner needs to recognize the effect of applying conservation practices in order to select combinations of practices that solve the identified or potential concerns without creating new problems. The effects concept is applicable for formulation of alternatives. It can also be used to assist in explaining resource problems, and display treatment options. The entire effects process will not be needed when working with

each decisionmaker. Documentation of effects on typical land uses in the field office work area will be prepared for local use, training, and planning guidance. This document will be filed in Section III. Unique or complex situations would warrant documentation of the complete effects. This may include situations where the client needs an RMS to meet regulatory requirements or a new style land management or farming operation is established in the work area.

#### What is CPPE?

The Conservation Practice Physical Effects (CPPE) show in a numerical way, both negative and positive the physical effects that conservation practices have on resource concerns. These documents are filed in Section V and become the foundation for developing site specific worksheets in Section III. The estimation of physical effects is based on professional experience, judgment and available technical information. Each resource may have multiple problems that are represented by one of the various columns in the CPPE worksheet.

The key question that should be asked when using the CPPE is, "If this practice is applied, what effect it will have not only on the identified or potential target resource concerns but also on all the other resource concerns contained in the column headings?" The headings in each column of the CPPE briefly describe identified or potential resource concerns.